

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
REPORT - JUNE 4 - JUNE 10

1. CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. PANAMA'S NEGOTIATORS RETURNED TO
WASHINGTON JUNE 7 FOLLOWING A WEEK OF CONSULTATIONS WITH
GENERAL TORRIJOS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE GOP. THE
NEGOTIATORS FROM THE TWO SIDES MET IN A FORMAL SESSION
JUNE 8 DURING WHICH THE PANAMANIAN SIDE ORALLY PRESENTED
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SEVERAL RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS
DISCUSSIONS. PANAMA SUBMITTED A PAPER TO THE U.S. SIDE
JUNE 9, BUT NO MEETING WAS HELD. THE CHIEF NEGOTIATORS
GOT TOGETHER BRIEFLY JUNE 10 IN A SHORT, INFORMAL SESSION.
THE NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR
JUNE 13 AT 3:30 PM. THE TECHNICAL TEAMS MET JUNE 6
AND WILL RESUME THEIR SESSIONS NEXT WEEK.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE. THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AT SHALER TRIANGLE WAS GIVEN ROUTINE COVERAGE. A PHOTO SHOWING THE U.S. FLAG BEING TAKEN FROM THE FLAGPOLE APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE WASHINGTON STAR. LOW KEY COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE RESUMED JUNE 8. THE JUNE 9 BALTIMORE SUN CARRIED EXTENSIVE STORY

HEADLINED "U.S., PANAMA NEARING ACCORD ON CANAL TREATY." STORY DEALS WITH COMPLEXITIES OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION. STORY CONCLUDES THAT "... PRESIDENT CARTER WILL WEIGH HIS TACTICS CAREFULLY IF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. SOME OF THE UNDECIDED SENATORS (WRITER ESTIMATES 40 OF THESE) MAY BE INFLUENCED BY THE GENERAL STATE OF PRESIDENTIAL RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS AT THE TIME. IN ANY EVENT, NEGOTIATORS SAY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ISSUE BE KEPT OUT OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF 1978, A CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION YEAR."

3. FUND CUT-OFF FAILS AGAIN. ON JUNE 10 THE HOUSE DEFEATED BY VOICE VOTE A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY REP. SNYDER (R-KY) PROHIBITING USE OF ANY FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH A NEW CANAL TREATY. SUPPORT FOR THE SNYDER PROPOSAL WAS APPARENTLY VERY SMALL; ONLY 18 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 100 MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED SNYDER'S CALL FOR A RECORDED VOTE ON HIS AMENDMENT. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR THAT HOUSE OPPONENTS OF TREATY REVISION HAVE FAILED IN ATTEMPTS CUT OFF FUNDS. A SIMILAR AMENDMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONNECTION WITH THE STATE AUTHORIZATION BILL WAS DEFEATED 220-182 ON MAY 4.

4. CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS TRIP TO PANAMA. NEW HAMPSHIRE GOV MELDRIM THOMSON (A REPUBLICAN) AND MR. LOUIS JENKINS, A DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE, ARE VISITING PANAMA AND THE CANAL ZONE JUNE 9-12 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CANAL OPERATIONS AND USG POLICY TOWARD THE CANAL. EMBASSY PANAMA AND ARA/PAN HAVE ASSISTED IN ARRANGING THE DELEGATION'S PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES MEETINGS WITH U.S. AND PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS.

5. WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WERE ONE OF SEVERAL TOPICS TOUCHED ON DURING A JUNE 8 PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN POLICY BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. THE BI-PARTISAN MEETING INCLUDED THE SENATE AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HOUSE INTER-

NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES.

6. VISIT WITH MEANY. ON JUNE 8, AMBASSADOR BUNKER MET
WITH GEORGE MEANY TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

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Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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